

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Børge KRINGELUM et al.
Title: METHOD FOR SUPPLY OF STARTER CULTURES HAVING
A CONSISTENT QUALITY
Appl. No.: Unassigned
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Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Application, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121, please substitute for original claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 17 and 19-22 the following rewritten version of the same claim, as amended. The change is shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cultivation medium in step (ii) does not substantially or entirely consist of whole milk, but at least partially of skimmed milk or cream.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material and/or the subset of the stock inoculum material is in a state selected from the group consisting of a liquid, frozen and dried state.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subset of the stock inoculum material in step (ii) is added under aseptical conditions or under substantially aseptical conditions to the cultivation medium.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material is provided in sealed enclosures.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the starter culture organism in step (I) originates from a species selected from the group consisting of a lactic acid bacterial species, a *Bifidobacterium* species, a *Propionibacterium* species, a *Staphylococcus* species, a *Micrococcus* species, a *Bacillus* species, an *Enterobacteriaceae* species including *E. coli*, an *Actinomyces* species, a *Corynebacterium* species, a *Brevibacterium* species, a *Pediococcus* species, a *Pseudomonas* species, a *Sphingomonas* species, a *Mycobacterium* species, a *Rhodococcus* species, a fungal species and a yeast species.

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material in step (I) comprises at least two starter culture strains.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the starter culture is selected from industries from the group consisting of the food, feed and pharmaceutical industry.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the starter culture is used for inoculation of milk which is further processed to obtain a dairy product, which is selected from the group consisting of cheese, yogurt, butter, inoculated sweet milk and a liquid fermented milk product.

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22. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cells being propagated in the cultivation medium express a desired gene product or produce a desired product.


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments to Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 17 and 19-22 be entered in order to avoid this application from incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

March 21, 2001
Date

FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
Telephone: (202) 672-5404
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399


Stephen A. Bent
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,768

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

7. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the cultivation medium in step (ii) does not substantially or entirely consist of whole milk, but at least partially of skimmed milk or cream.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material and/or the subset of the stock inoculum material is in a state selected from the group consisting of a liquid, frozen and dried state.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 10] claim 1, wherein the subset of the stock inoculum material in step (ii) is added under aseptical conditions or under substantially aseptical conditions to the cultivation medium.

12. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 11] claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material is provided in sealed enclosures.

17. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 16] claim 1, wherein the starter culture organism in step (I) originates from a species selected from the group consisting of a lactic acid bacterial species, a *Bifidobacterium* species, a *Propionibacterium* species, a *Staphylococcus* species, a *Micrococcus* species, a *Bacillus* species, an *Enterobacteriaceae* species including *E. coli*, an *Actinomyces* species, a *Corynebacterium* species, a *Brevibacterium* species, a *Pediococcus* species, a *Pseudomonas* species, a *Sphingomonas* species, a *Mycobacterium* species, a *Rhodococcus* species, a fungal species and a yeast species.

19. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 18] claim 1, wherein the stock inoculum material in step (I) comprises at least two starter culture strains.

20. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 19] claim 1, wherein the starter culture is selected from industries from the group consisting of the food, feed and pharmaceutical industry.

21. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 20] claim 1, wherein the starter culture is used for inoculation of milk which is further processed to obtain a dairy product, which is selected from the group consisting of cheese, [yoghurt] yogurt, butter, inoculated sweet milk and a liquid fermented milk product.

22. (Amended) A method according to [any of the claims of 1 to 21] claim 1, wherein the cells being propagated in the cultivation medium express a desired gene product or produce a desired product.